

Application No.: 09/912,564

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Docket No.: 325772026000

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from claim 2. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-20 are allowed.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Katoh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,697,008. This rejection is respectfully overcome by amendment. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772026000.

Dated: October 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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